

for the Research and Intelligence Analysts.

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INFORMATION REPORT
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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Factory Guard System in the Soviet Zone

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

1. Several plants belonging to the "Vereinigungen volkseigener Betriebe" (publicly owned plant combines) reported to the Deutsche Wirtschafts-Kommission (DWK) on 7 January 1949 that, particularly in Thuringia, there had been instances of the state police arbitrarily posting factory guards with individual plants and with combines.
2. These complaints were obviously lodged in ignorance of an arrangement between the DWK and the Deutsche Verwaltung des Innern (German Administration of the Interior), that all plants, not excepting publicly owned plant combines administered under zonal supervision, come under the purview of the land police. Thus the Land police has been placed in the position of being able to order each plant to employ a certain number of auxiliary police as factory guards. Plant management cannot issue orders of any kind to the factory guards, who are under the exclusive control of the state police. The plant management is also denied any influence whatsoever in the selection of its factory guards.*

* Comment: A former Soviet Zone police official confirms that factory guards, their organization, service regulations, uniforms, and disciplinary control, are centrally directed by the Uniformed Constabulary Section of the German Administration of the Interior. By way of illustrating the extent to which the police can interfere in the contractual relationship between employer and employee, he cites a regulation by which the plant is forbidden to vacate plant-owned workers' residences occupied by a worker whose services are used full-time for plant protection, although his occupancy had been required by the nature of the work for which he had been originally hired.

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